

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4509

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 2074

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EMIN MR IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN MINISTER OF STATE VISITS MAURITANIA

1. M.A.C. GEORGES, INDIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY AND FOOD, VISITED MAURITANIA OCTOBER 7-9. HE WAS PRECEDED BY INDIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES BASED IN ALGIERS. GEORGES MET WITH PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH AND WAS ALSO GUEST AT DINNER GIVEN BY PRESIDENT. IN ADDITION, GEORGES MET SEPARATELY WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY SIDI OULD CHIEKH ABDALLAHI, MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND MINES ISHAQ OULD RAGEL, AND MINISTER OF PLANNING IBRAHIMA BA. GEORGES DELIVERED PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER GANDHI TO PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH.

2. IN MEETING WITH LOCAL PRESS CORPS, GEORGES STRESSED IDENTICAL POSITION OF MAURITANIA AND INDIA ON MANY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. HE SAID MEETING WITH OULD DADDAH CONCENTRATED ON PROBLEMS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND MAURITANIA IN AREA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. GEORGES ADDED THAT TEAM OF INDIAN EXPERTS WILL SOON COME TO MAURITANIA IN ORDER TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS FIELDS.

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3. INDIAN CHARGE TOLD ME VISIT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL. ONE OF KEY TOPICS
DISCUSSED WAS ASSOCIATION OF IRON ORE
EXPORTING COUNTRIES, TO WHICH BOTH MAURITANIA AND INDIA
BELONG. OULD RAGEL COMMENTED TO GEORGES THAT HE PLANS
TO ATTEND FIRST SESSION OF CONFERENCE TN MINISTERS OF
THE ASSOCIATION SCHEDULED OCTOBER 23-24 IN LONDON.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF STRONG MAURITANIAN AND INDIAN
INTEREST IN ASSOCIATION OF IRON ORE EXPORTING COUNTRIES,
BELIEVE ONE OF MAJOR GOALS OF GEORGES' VISIT TO NOUAKCHOTT
WAS TO DISCUSS UPCOMING LONDON CONFERENCE. SHINN

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